IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-15. (canceled)

16. (previously amended) A method for attaching a heart valve prosthesis to a tissue annulus using an attachment device comprising a base and a pair of legs extending from the legs, the attachment device being elastically movable from a relaxed state wherein the legs cross one another and a delivery state wherein the legs extend substantially parallel with one another, the method comprising:

loading the attachment device into a tool with the attachment device in the relaxed state;

securing the heart valve prosthesis to the tissue annulus using the attachment device while applying a force using the tool to place the attachment device in the delivery state; and

releasing the attachment device from the tool such that the attachment device returns towards the relaxed state such that the legs cross one another.

17. (previously presented)The method of claim 16, wherein the legs cross one another at a leg angle less than one hundred eighty degrees (180°) in the relaxed state.

18. (previously presented)The method of claim 17, wherein the leg angle is less than or equal to ninety degrees (90°) in the relaxed state.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the base rotates about a base axis when the attachment device is released, thereby causing the legs to cross one another.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the force applied to place the attachment device in the delivery state comprises a base torque.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the force applied to place the attachment device in the delivery state comprises a pivot torque.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the attachment device is used to implant the heart valve prosthesis in a supra-annular position.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the attachment device is used to implant the heart valve prosthesis in an infra-annular position.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the heart valve prosthesis comprises a first prosthesis comprising a sewing ring and a second prosthesis comprising a valve structure, and wherein the attachment device is used to attach the first prosthesis within or around the annulus.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising loading a pledget onto the attachment device before securing the heart valve prosthesis.

26-47. (canceled)

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the heart valve prosthesis comprises a first prosthesis and a second prosthesis, and wherein securing the heart valve prosthesis to the tissue annulus comprises:

securing the first prosthesis to a tissue annulus by inserting a plurality of attachment devices through the first prosthesis; and

thereafter placing the second prosthesis.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the attachment devices are used to secure the first prosthesis in a supra-annular position.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the attachment devices are placed within or around the tissue annulus to secure the first prosthesis to the tissue annulus.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the attachment devices are placed vertically or horizontally within or around the tissue annulus to secure the first prosthesis to the tissue annulus.

52. (previously presented)The method of claim 48, wherein the first prosthesis comprises a sewing ring, and wherein the first prosthesis is attached prosthesis to a tissue annulus by inserting the attachment devices through the sewing ring.

53. (withdrawn) The method of claim 52, wherein each attachment device is delivered by:

a) holding the attachment device in the tool in the relaxed state;

b) applying a force with the tool to force the attachment device to the delivery state;

c) inserting the legs through the sewing ring into tissue with the attachment device in the delivery state; and

d) deploying the attachment device from the tool such that the attachment device returns towards the relaxed state.

54. (withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein the attachment devices are placed within or around the tissue annulus to secure the first prosthesis to the tissue annulus.

55. (withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the attachment devices are placed vertically or horizontally within or around the tissue annulus to secure the first prosthesis to the tissue annulus.

56. (withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein the tool comprises an anvil, and step a) comprises loading the attachment device around the anvil in the relaxed state.

57. (withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein the tool comprises a slide and an anvil for causing the legs of the attachment device to rotate outward to the delivery state during step b).

58. (withdrawn) The method of claim 57, wherein step d) comprises sliding the anvil out of the way and forcing the device out the end of the tool with the slide.

59. (withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein the tool retains the attachment device in the delivery state while the device is inserted through the sewing ring into tissue, whereupon the device is deployed from the tool.

60. (withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein the legs of the attachment devices comprise tips with straight pointed ends.

61. (withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein delivery of at least one of the attachment devices further comprises removing the attachment device from the sewing ring and tissue.

62. (withdrawn) The method of claim 61, wherein delivery of the at least one of the attachment devices further comprises redeploying the attachment device at another location.

63. (previously presented)The method of claim 48, wherein each attachment device is delivered by:

a) holding the attachment device in the tool in the relaxed state;

b) applying a force with the tool to force the attachment device to the delivery state;

c) inserting the legs through the first prosthesis into tissue with the attachment device in the delivery state; and

d) deploying the attachment device from the tool such that the attachment device returns towards the relaxed state.

64. (previously presented)The method of claim 63, wherein the tool comprises an anvil, and step a) comprises loading the attachment device around the anvil in the relaxed state.

65. (previously presented)The method of claim 63, wherein the tool comprises a slide and an anvil for causing the legs of the attachment device to rotate outward to the delivery state during step b).

66. (previously presented)The method of claim 65, wherein step d) comprises sliding the anvil out of the way and forcing the device out the end of the tool with the slide.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein the tool retains the attachment device in the delivery state while the device is inserted through the first prosthesis into tissue, whereupon the device is deployed from the tool.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein the legs of the attachment devices comprise tips with straight pointed ends.

70. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein delivery of at least one of the attachment devices further comprises removing the attachment device from the sewing ring and tissue.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein delivery of the at least one of the attachment devices further comprises redeploying the attachment device at another location.

72. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein securing the heart valve prosthesis to the tissue annulus using the attachment device comprises:

a) holding the attachment device in the tool in the relaxed state;

b) applying a force with the tool to force the attachment device to the delivery state;

c) inserting the legs through the heart valve prosthesis into tissue with the attachment device in the delivery state; and

d) deploying the attachment device from the tool such that the attachment device returns towards the relaxed state.

73. (withdrawn) The method of claim 72, wherein the tool comprises an anvil, and step a) comprises loading the attachment device around the anvil in the relaxed state.

74. (withdrawn) The method of claim 72, wherein the tool comprises a slide and an anvil for causing the legs of the attachment device to rotate outward to the delivery state during step b), and wherein step d) comprises sliding the anvil out of the way and forcing the device out the end of the tool with the slide.